

Message Text

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20-S

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SAM-01 SP-02 NSC-05 INR-07 DPW-01

RSC-01 /043 R

DRAFTED BY EA/LC:LMRIVES:DTM

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

EA:RHMILLER

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R 180129Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012588

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: DEAN CASE

REF: VIENTIANE 0310

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB CALLED IN LAO AMBASSADOR KHAMPHAN PANYA JANUARY 17. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION HABIB SAID THAT USG DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY A YOUNG AMERICAN, CHARLES DEAN, HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED BY THE LPF. HE WENT INTO DETAILS REGARDING TIME OF CAPTURE, PLACE OF DETENTION, AMBASSADOR'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE AND VISIT BY HOWARD DEAN. HE PARTICULARLY STRESSED THE FACT THAT PROOF HAS BEEN PRESENTED OF DEAN'S CAPTURE AND WHEREABOUTS AND THAT UNTIL RECEIPT OF DECEMBER 16 NEGATIVE LETTER, EXPECTATIONS OF FAVORABLE OUTCOME HAD INCREASED. HABIB SAID HE WAS SEEING MR. AND MRS. DEAN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEETING WITH LAO AMBASSADOR. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT IF NO SATISFACTION OBTAINED SHORTLY, THE CASE WOULD BECOME A "CAUSE CELEBRE". LATTER WAS NOT DESIRABLE AND WOULD BE REGRETTABLE IN VIEW GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO
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COUNTRIES.

2. HABIB ALSO POINTED OUT THAT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD MADE KNOWN ITS VIEWS CONCERNING SHARMAN.

3. IN REPLY, LAO AMBASSADOR ASSURED HABIB THAT HE WOULD SEND IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM TO FONMIN PHOUMI AND WOULD FOLLOW WITH FULL REPORT BY POUCH. HE AGREED THAT CASE SHOULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY AND NOT BECOME AN ISSUE BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, HABIB AGAIN URGED AMBASSADOR TO LET PGNU KNOW THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THIS CASE OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, FACT THAT WE UNDERLINED INTEREST BY CALLING HIM IN AND THAT EARLY RELEASE IS BEST SOLUTION. KISSINGER

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